

Transition Team

April 19, 2002

Background

Over 90% of special education graduates are living below the poverty level 3 years after graduation.

Rural areas lack resources

Some parents lack vision of the possibilities

Transition is a “paper” not a “process”

State focus on transition

Overall Purpose

To actively engage community service providers in transition activities.

To disseminate information across the region

To identify exemplary programs

To increase the expertise of teachers

To identify resources and gaps

To improve transition services in the CESC region

Purpose of this Session

Determine the current status in our region

Articulate our vision of where we want to be

Chart our course

Include: community resources in planning this team

Keep a focus on Pro-active problem solving

Non-purpose of this session

Avoid “storytelling”

Identification of problems without solutions

Where are we now?

Strengths

1. Big Brother, Big Sister program
2. Voc Rehab, DVR counselor, job coach, CBTW program
3. World of work program
4. YMCA
5. LifeSkills, clubhouse, supported employment, life centered planning, vocational counselors, supported living, sheltered workshops, transportation services (vans)
6. Job Corp
7. Vocational School
8. Warren Co voc programs 3 tracks
9. Peer tutoring
10. Private agencies: @ Res Care and Lifeline
11. Youth Service Center
12. Adult Daycare (private agencies)
13. Barren County ARC

14. Co-Op, LifeSkills SEEDS, Warren County LifeSkills
15. Jobs for Ky Graduates (spin-off of JTPA)
16. Hart Adult Education Program
17. City-wide park and recreation (little league sports)
18. 21st Century grant (after school programs)
19. LifeSkills Summer program
20. Girl/Boy Scouts
21. Community Action
22. KSB & KSD programs

Barriers

1. Rural Barriers extended family protection, fear loss of “checks”
2. Limited services for ESL students
3. Transportation
4. Change in positions (turnovers)
5. Communication
6. Stereotyping
7. Lack of networking, education for staff and parents
8. Limited availability of services for higher functioning students
9. Parent involvement
10. Not enough long range planning
11. High-tech electives
12. Supported living space
13. Motivation (student/parent)
14. Availability (restricted numbers)
15. No one thinks “Out of the box” (no vision for future)
16. Funding
17. Eligibility for programs and funds
18. Lack of mentors
19. POS
20. Paperwork not “real” or applied
21. Strengths are not evenly dispersed across region
22. Diplomas

Our Vision of the Future

Regional Resource Notebook with brochures and website
 Will be able to access resources easily
 Will have options available upon graduation
 We will use SETS for every student
 We will begin the transition process at the elementary level
 Will be able to focus on preparing kids for work not medical school
 We will have community based work transition program with a VR counselor at every high school
 Tremendous number of students with disabilities employed (part time as students & as adults)
 We will have work-oriented diplomas
 Caseworker for every exiting student for at least 6 months
 We will have transportation services

Increase number of students entering college
Parent discussions & training beginning in elementary school (starts at home)
Community will be informed of what they can do
We will have a “Career Day” to inform out students of jobs in the immediate area
Transition services/discussions, planning’s really begin at age 14
Every district has a regional representative on transition team
Job Shadowing/Career Exploration for children with disabilities at elementary level
Transition/Vocational plans will drive the educational/training program
Transition planning is first
Increased funding ear marked for transition services
We will have professional development for regular and Special Education teachers to learn about transition
We will have residential options
We will have community resources attend all ARC meetings in which transition is discussed

Charting our course

Think Tank

LeAnn presented information about state level initiatives. Vickie described Warren County’s participation in the process.

Resource Mapping

Theresa Ogles- Allen
Rebecca Rose- Butler
Sandra Finch- Edmonson
Shanna Paul- Bowling Green
Vicky Embry- Warren
Shelly Decker- Hart
Sonya Carter- Caverna
Ashly Wofford- Todd

Professional Development

Person Centered Planning – Pam,
September, December and February
IHDI resources from web
Develop list of PD resources
Agency Fair

Transition Fair

Rhonda Biller- Warren Central
Arlene Lamb or Tom Thompson- Russellville
Ginny Harveson- Glasgow
Greg Howard- Todd County

Transition Conference

Kay Wilkins will help arrange speakers

Pat Witcher, Stacy Henderson, Rebecca Rose, and Cynthia York will help with the registration table.

Ashly Wofford will help decorate

Theresa Ogles and Shelly Decker volunteered to be gofers

Other Initiatives

Next meeting end of September

Increase number of districts with CBWTP

100% participation on transition team from CESC districts

Invite community resource members to “Transition Team” meetings